United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/27/ECU/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 April 2017
English
Original: Spanish

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-seventh session
1-12 May 2017

National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21*

Ecuador

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GE.17-01930 (E) 280517 020617

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I. Introduction

1. The Republic of Ecuador hereby submits its third national report to the Human Rights Council, for the third cycle of the universal periodic review, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21 and decision 17/119.

2. Ecuador recognizes the universal periodic review as the main universal mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the human rights situation; it has ratified all the United Nations human rights conventions and has regularly submitted periodic reports to the various committees. In addition, Ecuador has extended a standing invitation to, and continues to cooperate with, the various United Nations special procedures and mechanisms.

3. Ecuador is a member of the Human Rights Council (2016-2018) and has reaffirmed its commitment[1] to the strengthening of the Council as an autonomous and non-selective human rights body and to the full realization of its objectives. On this basis, it has continued to participate actively in debates, organize parallel events, submit and co-sponsor resolutions, and participate substantively in negotiations on texts for adoption.

4. At the national level, to ensure the full enjoyment and comprehensive protection of human rights, Ecuador updated and enhanced the implementation of its National Plan for the Good Way of Living (*Buen Vivir*), the second phase (2013-2017) of which contributed to, among other achievements, further advancement of equality and of the rights of groups who have historically been discriminated against or restricted and the rights of priority groups and to the historic recognition and promotion of the rights of nature. Through the implementation of the National Plan for Good Living and unprecedented public investment, especially in social sectors, Ecuador succeeded in achieving 20 of the 21 targets of the Millennium Development Goals by the end of 2015. Although the country did not meet the target for reduction of maternal mortality, it came close, with a reduction of almost 68 per cent, thanks to the Strategy for the Reduction of Maternal Mortality. Ecuador recognizes the importance of the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals highlight specific targets for equity in all areas, and as part of its national planning process is developing a series of strategies and activities for their achievement; the country also recognizes the link between these goals and targets and human rights obligations and commitments.

5. On 16 April 2016, Ecuador was hit by an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale, which killed 663 persons, affected thousands more and destroyed over 50,000 public and private infrastructure elements, including schools, roads and health-care facilities, causing more than US$ 3 billion in damage, which represents 3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

6. The Committee for Reconstruction and Revival of Production and Employment was set up to oversee the construction and reconstruction of the infrastructure needed to deal with the aftermath of the earthquake of 16 April 2016 and to implement plans, programmes, initiatives and public policies for recovery, production and employment in affected areas. In addition, the Organic Act on Solidarity and Shared Civil Responsibility was adopted, which enabled significant resources to be mobilized and resulted in the renovation of 912 educational establishments and 9 health-care centres, the construction of 12,220 completed housing units and a further 20,131 under construction, the reconstruction of 9 drinking water and sanitation systems and the repair of 322 roads. The revival of production has been a major aim of the process. Early achievements have included the creation of 12,535 new businesses, the issuance of 9,104 commercial loans and the creation of 50,000 new jobs.

II. Methodology and consultation processes

7. In line with Executive Decree No. 1317,[2] the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religious Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility worked together to produce and validate this report, following the protocol for periodic reporting to the international human rights treaty bodies. Their work included inter-institutional efforts to gather information and performance indicator data through the Human Rights Information

System (SIDERECHOS) platform, which involved 31 institutions representing the five functions of the State and ongoing dialogue with civil society organizations through workshops addressing various topics related to human rights.

III. Normative and public policy framework (recommendations 134.2, 135.2, 135.8 and 135.49)

8. Between 2009 and 2015, 93 legislative initiatives were adopted, all linked to the idea of the democratic State of *sumak kawsay* ("the good way of living") set forth in the 2008 Constitution of Ecuador, reflecting a democratic country committed to rights and justice. This process of policy reform has led to progress in harmonizing domestic legislation with the international human rights treaties to which Ecuador is a party. The process of ratifying the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (the Kampala Amendments) began in 2013 and is currently under way.

9. The main tool for public policy design is the National Plan for the Good Way of Living (2013-2017). Its objectives, policies, lines of action and targets are organized into three areas: (1) changes in power relations for the empowerment of people through the provision of quality public services and the forging of a plurinational and intercultural State; (2) rights, freedoms and capacities for "the good way of living"; and (3) transformation of the economy and production patterns through changes in the structure of production.

IV. Protection of human rights

A. Eradication of poverty and redistribution of wealth (recommendations 135.5, 135.47, 135.48)

10. The Constitution, which establishes a solidarity-based social economic system, provides the framework for poverty eradication policies. The National Plan for the Good Way of Living (2013-2017) includes strategies for achieving equality and eradicating poverty on the basis of a multidimensional approach.

11. Over the period from 2009 to 2016, the Multidimensional Poverty Index[3] fell from 27.2 per cent to 16.9 per cent,[4] thanks to efforts to ensure people's enjoyment of their rights with regard to access to employment, education, social security, water and decent housing. In general terms, 1.5 million people were lifted out of poverty between 2006 and 2016.[5] In addition, between 2007 and 2015, Ecuador managed to reduce the gap between the poorest and the richest by more than 40 per cent[6] and achieved an 8-point reduction in the Gini coefficient, making it, as of 2014, one of the Latin American countries that had made the greatest headway in reducing inequalities.

12. Significant results have been achieved in terms of increasing the real purchasing power of wages. In 2006, the average monthly household income covered 65.89 per cent of the basic basket of consumer goods, a figure that had risen to 97.47 per cent by the end of 2016.[7]

13. The Government continues to implement a tax policy aimed at redistributing income in line with the principles of universality, progressiveness, efficiency, equity and transparency. This policy has been the source of funds for an unprecedented level of social investment: from 2007 to 2016, taxes amounting to US$ 88.177 billion were collected, almost four times the amount collected from 1999 to 2006. Between 2012 and 2015, receipts increased from US$ 11.264 billion to US$ 13.95 billion, which represents an increase of almost 24 per cent.

14. A number of institutions exist at the national level for the promotion of social equity and the redistribution of wealth. The Ministry for the Coordination of Social Development and the Office for the People- and Solidarity-Based Economy were created in 2007 and 2011, respectively, to monitor and oversee the solidarity-based social economy. In 2012, the National Corporation for People- and Solidarity-Based Finance was created with the aim of improving the financial inclusion of participants in the solidarity-based social

economy. In 2014, the Monetary and Financial Policy and Regulation Board was created to regulate the system, including the people- and solidarity-based financial system.

15. The solidarity-based social economy has been developed through endeavours such as the co-financing of 460 projects between 2009 and 2016 with an investment of US$ 74 million in the agricultural, manufacturing, agro-industrial, services, community tourism and crafts sectors. Technical and administrative training was provided to 23,408 participants in the solidarity-based social economy between 2015 and 2016, and 24 trade fairs, round tables and other events have been organized since 2010, in which 754 organizations of the solidarity-based social economy participated, generating revenue of more than US$ 1.5 million.

16. In addition, the Public Procurement Service promotes participation by organizations of the solidarity-based social economy in the procurement process and between 2009 and 2016 awarded them a total of US$ 259 million, supporting the textiles, food and services sectors.

B. Equality and non-discrimination (recommendations 135.9, 135.16, 135.17, 135.18, 135.19)

17. In 2014, the Organic Act on National Equality Councils entered into force. The Act establishes the institutional and policy framework for the activities of equality councils, which are tasked with ensuring the full enjoyment and exercise of rights by promoting the right to equality and non-discrimination for the following groups that have historically been discriminated against: (1) women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; (2) children, adolescents, young persons and older persons; (3) peoples and nationalities (indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio); (4) persons with disabilities; and (5) migrants and persons affected by human mobility.

18. The councils have taken up the challenge of forging and consolidating an intercultural, plurinational, participatory, equitable and inclusive society, having been empowered to formulate, mainstream, implement, monitor and evaluate public policies related to equality and non-discrimination. Their aim is to ensure the full enjoyment and exercise of all the rights set forth in the Constitution and in international human rights instruments and to promote, advance, protect and ensure respect for the rights of persons, communes, communities, peoples, nationalities and other groups in order to strengthen national unity in diversity and forge a plurinational and intercultural State.

C. Rights related to "the good way of living"

Decent work, social security and trade union rights (recommendation 134.3)

19. Ecuador recognizes that the right to decent work should prevail over the right to accumulate capital. Work is seen not as just another factor of production, but as part of "the good way of living" itself.[9] Thus, the aim of public policy is to recognize decent work, reduce structural underemployment and progressively increase the purchasing power of wages within the framework of the strengthening of the system of the solidarity-based social economy.

20. During the period under review, substantial progress was recorded in this area. The unemployment rate, which fell to 5.2 per cent, was one of the lowest in South America.[9] The continued implementation of the "Mi Primer Empleo" ("My First Job") programme, which facilitates the integration of university students into the labour market through internships, had benefited 15,110 persons by 2016, and 60 per cent of them went on to join the labour force.

21. The Ministry of Labour conducts regular workplace inspections to ensure decent working conditions. It conducted 116,700 such inspections between 2007 and 2016.

22. Ecuador has ratified the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).[10] The Convention is implemented at the national level through the Organic Act on the Protection of Labour Rights of 2014 and the Organic Act on Labour Justice and Recognition of Domestic Work of 2012, which regulate conditions of

employment for domestic workers and, as of 2016, had enabled 208,140 such workers to benefit from social security coverage, 94.5 per cent of whom are women.

23. Between 2006 and 2016, the number of persons registered in the social security system increased from 1,401,935 to 3,176,433, which represents an increase of 226 per cent. Unemployment insurance introduced in 2016 pays benefits for a period of five months to unemployed persons registered with the Ecuadorian Social Security Institute; as of December 2016, 25,000 people had accessed the insurance.

24. With regard to labour rights, there were 822 registered trade union organizations in 2016.

Health (recommendations 135.5 and 135.52)

25. In fulfilment of the relevant constitutional provision, health is recognized as a fundamental right guaranteed by the State, which creates the conditions necessary for the full enjoyment of this right. The comprehensive health model (a set of strategies, policies, procedures, tools and resources), introduced in 2013, organizes the national health system on the basis of primary health care, community epidemiology, human rights, participation, interculturalism and gender mainstreaming.

26. A comprehensive health promotion policy has continued to be implemented throughout the country, with emphasis on coverage, quality and wide social inclusion. The proportion of the budget invested in the health sector, in relation to GDP, increased from 2.8 per cent in 2012 to 3.8 per cent in 2016. In absolute terms, the budget for the health sector increased by US$ 1.91022 billion over the period from 2012 to 2016.

27. With regard to the availability of hospital beds, an average of 1.52 per 1,000 population has been reached, which is very close to the level recommended by the World Health Organization. The number of physicians per 10,000 population increased from 9.0 to 18.8 between 2006 and 2015. In 2016, more than 42 million medical consultations had been recorded.

28. The comprehensive health model provides for health care that takes account of the specificities and needs of each age group and incorporates a gender perspective, ensuring comprehensive care throughout the life course. In 2015, the numbers of outpatient visits by age group were as follows: under 1 month: 224,358; 1 to 11 months: 1,301,871; 1 to 4 years: 3,883,638; 5 to 9 years: 4,188,208; 10 to 14 years: 2,940,595; 15 to 19 years: 2,700,869; 20 to 49 years: 13,347,215; 50 to 64 years: 3,784,066; and 65 to 120 years: 3,453,759.[11]

29. The Organic Act Regulating Pre-Paid Health-Care and Medical Assistance Companies was published in October 2016. With a view to protecting the right to health, it prohibits discrimination in health-care contracts on grounds of, inter alia, gender identity, sex or age.

Education (recommendations 135.5, 135.14, 135.16, 135.55)

30. Efforts to ensure the widest possible coverage and highest possible quality of education at all levels have been intensified. While US$ 4.823 billion was invested between 2000 and 2006, more than US$ 19.186 billion was invested between 2008 and 2016, an increase of 298 per cent.

31. Access to education is free and inclusive: from the first year of primary school to the third year of secondary school, students are provided with school kits, uniforms and meals. Various strategies have been developed to reduce school dropout, including involving the family and the educational community, as a result of which the dropout rate fell from 8.1 per cent in 2010 to 4.4 per cent in 2015. Between 2007 and 2016, net enrolment in primary education increased by 7 per cent for indigenous children, 4.3 per cent for mestizo children and 5.2 per cent for Afro-Ecuadorian children, while net enrolment in secondary education rose by 31.2 per cent for indigenous adolescents, 20 per cent for mestizo adolescents and 22 per cent for Afro-Ecuadorian adolescents.

32. One of the major public policies has been directed towards improving the availability of education and the quality of educational infrastructure through millennium educational units,[12] which are outfitted with appropriate pedagogical resources, thematic

learning environments and modern and high-tech equipment in libraries, laboratories and technical, sporting and cultural facilities. There are currently 72 such units in operation and a further 46 under construction. In addition, there are 12 renovated educational units, a further 17 are currently being renovated and contracts have been awarded for the construction of 357 "Twenty-First Century" educational units.

33. The Organic Act on Intercultural Education of 2011 brought teachers' wages into line with the public-sector scale and guaranteed their right to reclassification and promotion. In 2008, a teacher of the highest grade earned around US$ 239, but, since 2011, a professional of the same grade has earned US$ 1,676. A total of 49,740 teachers have been reclassified since 2014. With regard to continuing education, the National University of Education was set up in 2013 as the lead institution for teacher training at the national level; an international master's degree programme was implemented, under which 4,202 scholarships were awarded between 2014 and 2016, representing an investment of approximately US$ 31.58 million. Through the "Soy Maestro, nunca dejo de aprender" ("I Am a Teacher, I Never Stop Learning") programme, in which approximately US$ 7.378 million has been invested since 2014, a total of 16,564 teachers have had the opportunity to update their subject-matter knowledge.

34. Total investment in higher education reached 2 per cent of GDP in 2015, the highest level of spending on higher education of any Latin American country. In 2016, 7 of every 10 students were the first in their families to enter higher education.

35. Up to 2016, the State had awarded a total of 19,586 scholarships, compared with 237 between 1995 and 2006.

36. March 2013 saw the opening of Yachay,[13] a planned city oriented towards the promotion of technological innovation and the intensive production of knowledge, where human ingenuity and state-of-the-art infrastructure combine to produce world-class scientific applications. The first University for Experimental Technological Research is being set up within the city, which will also feature public and private research institutes, technology transfer centres, high-tech companies and representatives of the agricultural and agro-industrial community of Ecuador, making it the premier knowledge hub in Latin America. In addition, the National University of Education,[14] the University of the Arts[15] and the Amazon Regional University (IKIAM)[16] were established, marking a milestone in the advancement of Ecuadorian knowledge and the development of human talent.

37. Significant progress has been made towards eradicating illiteracy, especially among indigenous women and girls and rural populations. The illiteracy rate fell from 9 per cent in 2001 to 3.54 per cent in 2014. Currently, the net rate of enrolment among girls aged 5 to 14 years is 96.4 per cent; for boys aged 5 to 14 years, it is 96.1 per cent.

Housing (recommendation 135.8)

38. To promote the right to housing, the Government has invested US$ 1.612 billion since 2007, giving 373,572 families access to housing. The housing deficit fell from 21.3 per cent in 2009 to 13.4 per cent in 2015; among the rural population, the figure dropped to 16.8 per cent. Furthermore, between 2007 and 2015, overcrowding in rural areas decreased from 27.9 per cent to 15.1 per cent.[17]

39. In December 2016, legislation prohibiting land speculation and setting taxes was passed in order to stop land speculation and thus reduce the cost of, and increase access to, property throughout the country.

Cultural rights (recommendation 135.7)

40. The Organic Act on Culture, adopted in 2016, establishes operational guarantees to protect cultural rights, in the organizational and institutional sphere (setting out the structure of the National Culture System) and at a functional level (establishing the basis and underlying principles of cultural policy). The Act recognizes a range of cultural expressions and cultural property within the concept of social memory. The aim of public policy in this field is to identify cultural property that is of particular social importance and to promote the study, appreciation and protection of such property. The Act addresses the main recommendations on the protection of cultural diversity and the development of cultural industries that are contained in international treaties.

41. Among other festivals and funds, the "Ecuador, Land of the Arts" Competitive Grant Fund Programme 2008-2017 is a major source of public support at the national level and a direct financing mechanism for artistic and cultural projects undertaken by national artists, arts administrators and actors. The total budget for this programme is US$ 13,645,411.08. In addition, between 2007 and 2015, a total of US$ 9,252,108.65 was allocated to cinematographic projects.

Food sovereignty and access to water (recommendations 135.56 and 135.51)

42. The State promotes food sovereignty by recognizing the right to permanent and secure access to sufficient healthy and nutritious food, preferably produced locally and in a manner that is consistent with local cultural identities and traditions.

43. Legislation on food sovereignty and access to water was introduced in 2016 with the adoption of the Organic Act on Rural Lands and Ancestral Territories, which regulates the possession, ownership, management and redistribution of rural land as a factor of production for ensuring food sovereignty, increasing productivity, fostering a sustainable and balanced environment and provide legal certainty for all rights holders. In 2014, the Organic Act on Water Resources and Water Use and Management was passed, with the aim of protecting the right to water and regulating and monitoring the authorization, management, preservation, maintenance and restoration of water resources, as well as the use, overall management and reuse of water.

44. In terms of public policy, the Government has developed the national Action on Nutrition Strategy, which promotes intersectoral cooperation in order to achieve the target of reducing chronic malnutrition among children under the age of 5 years to 16.3 per cent by 2017. By December 2016, a total of 2,838,222 children and adolescents had benefited from the School Meals Programme and 92,000 children and adolescents had received food at a "good way of living (*buen vivir*)" children's centre.

45. The percentage of homes throughout the country with access to the public drinking water system rose from 80.4 per cent in 2012 to 87.9 per cent in 2015. Access increased by 1.5 per cent in urban areas and 17 per cent in rural areas.

46. As a preventive measure to combat the rise in obesity resulting from increased consumption of highly processed foods, it was decided in 2014 to require a traffic light label, indicating fat, salt and sugar content, on the packaging of all processed foods. Evaluations have found that this measure has led to the production and consumption of healthier products. Some 40 per cent of companies nationwide have made changes to improve the nutritional value of their products.

Healthy environment (recommendation 135.61)

47. In 2012, in accordance with objectives 7 and 11 of the National Plan for the Good Way of Living, Ecuador published its National Climate Change Strategy for 2012-2025, identifying priority areas for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures and setting out guidelines for incorporating the issue of climate change in all national and subnational policies; in 2016, it published an official action plan to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, under the United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus).

48. With regard to initiatives to preserve natural heritage and biodiversity, around 34 per cent of the continental land area is currently under protection or sustainable management under programmes run by the Ministry of the Environment. Steps have been taken to strengthen the National Protected Areas System, which currently covers 52 areas, and step up forest conservation under the Forest Partners Programme, which has benefited over 180,000 persons to date. In addition, mangrove concessions have been granted to local communities to ensure that the fragile mangrove ecosystem is properly managed.

49. Meanwhile, the energy transition is being driven by the development of flagship clean energy projects that aim to remove 11 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. These include the Coca Codo Sinclar hydropower plant, Delsitanisagua,

Maduriacu, Mazar Dudas, Minas San Francisco, Quijos, Sopladora, Toachi Pilatón and Villonaco projects.

50. As part of the Zero Fossil Fuels in the Galapagos Islands Programme, which is intended to eradicate fossil fuel use in the archipelago, the following projects have been developed: Baltra and Santa Cruz wind farm; Baltra solar power project; Puerto Ayora solar power project; and Isabela hybrid project.

51. The following projects have been carried out in the area of forest conservation and sustainable forest management: the National Forest Monitoring Project, with investments of US$ 19,331,119.80 between 2012 and 2015; the Forest Partners Programme, with investments of US$ 34,345,389.20 between 2012 and 2015; and the Reforestation Project, with investments of US$ 48,547,317 between 2014 and 2015.

D. Rights of priority groups

Rights of persons with disabilities (recommendations 135.56, 135.11, 135.45, 135.50)

52. Legislation and public policies to promote the rights of persons with disabilities have continued to be implemented consistently. In 2012, the Organic Act on Disabilities was promulgated with the aim of ensuring prevention and timely diagnosis of disabilities and priority attention to the needs of persons with disabilities. The Act also aims to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully exercise their rights on a basis of equality and non-discrimination.

53. The National Council for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities has drawn up a National Agenda for the Equality of Persons with Disabilities through a participatory process; the Agenda sets out 12 areas of focus and outlines public policy for the period up to 2017.

54. State spending to support persons with disabilities has risen significantly: between 2012 and 2015, it increased by 259 per cent, from US$ 71,000,000 to US$ 184,000,000.

55. In terms of progress made by the Ministry of Health, in 2015 alone 37,735 persons were registered or reregistered as persons with disabilities. A total of 790,000 children were diagnosed with neurodevelopmental problems or benefited from early detection of visual or hearing impairments or refractive errors. In addition, 15 comprehensive rehabilitation centres were opened, 1,500 prosthetic and orthotic devices were produced, 23,000 technical aids were provided and 2,513 persons received endoprosthetic or osteosynthetic devices.

56. An inclusive education model project has been implemented, at a cost of US$ 6,474,971.70, benefiting a total of 78,033 children and adolescents. The number of children and adolescents with special abilities included in mainstream education has increased by more 60 per cent, rising from 20,700 students in 2012 to 34,412 in 2016.

57. There has been a steady improvement in labour market participation by persons with disabilities in recent years: between 2012 and 2015, the number of persons with disabilities in employment rose from 38,317 to 81,463, an increase of 213 per cent. The country's labour policy has also promoted entrepreneurship among persons with disabilities. In 2012, no persons with disabilities started businesses, whereas between 2013 and 2015, a total of 917 persons with disabilities did so and received financing of US$ 5,169,000.

58. In 2015, 36.95 per cent of persons with disabilities received some form of financial support from the State. Overall, 22,815 persons received Joaquín Gallegos Lara vouchers, worth a total of US$ 61,734,655, while 127,800 persons received disability allowances amounting to US$ 67,194,000.

59. The main affirmative action measures to support persons with disabilities include tax-free imports of goods; a 50 per cent discount on land, air and sea travel; exemption from property tax; value added tax refunds for personal items that serve as technical aids; reduced income tax; loans for individual and family businesses; and reduced charges for public services.

60. In 2015, progress was made in drafting technical standards on accessibility, including the formulation and publication of 26 technical standards on the accessibility of

the physical environment, 4 standards on support products and 5 technical standards on equipment for playgrounds and recreational areas (including parks).

61. In 2016, Ecuador ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled. Implementation of the Treaty is being coordinated by various national institutions such as the Ministry for Coordination of Knowledge and Human Talent and the National Federation of Blind Persons in Ecuador.

Movement of persons (recommendations 135.1, 135.60 and 135.59)

62. Public policy continues to be oriented towards assisting and protecting migrants (emigrants, immigrants and persons in need of international protection) and facilitating the return and integration of Ecuadorian migrants.

63. In 2013, the Office of the Deputy Minister for Human Mobility was set up within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility in order to adapt the institutional structure to the need to advance the rights of migrants and refugees. In June of that year, the National Assembly approved the ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

64. In 2014, the National Agenda for Human Mobility: Equality for Migrants was introduced to ensure the cross-cutting application and the monitoring and evaluation of the human mobility policy. Under this agenda, 4 areas of focus, comprising 16 policies, were established.

65. The Organic Act on Human Mobility, which entered into force in February 2017, harmonizes existing legislation and incorporates it into a single body of law. This Act establishes rights for Ecuadorians abroad and promotes the full integration of immigrants in Ecuador, based on the principles of universal citizenship, free movement, regional integration, non-discrimination, non-criminalization and equity, among others.

66. Alongside this Act, a robust legal framework to protect refugees has been established. Ecuador has welcomed more refugees than any other country in Latin America; as of September 2016, the State had granted refugee status to 60,329 persons and the average level of integration for refugees in Ecuadorian territory was 59.7 per cent.

67. In order to combat discrimination against migrants, article 62 of the Organic Act on Communication of 2013 prohibits the dissemination of messages that might incite acts of violence and discriminatory content relating to, inter alia, individuals' migration status which has the purpose or effect of impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of rights established in the Constitution and in international human rights treaties.

68. As regards participation in the labour market, the Ministry of Labour signed an agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2015 on the provision of training in relation to labour migration, advice on drafting legislation and support in developing public-private partnerships to improve the protection of migrant workers. Over the course of 2015 and 2016, 1,232 migrants were able to find employment through the employment social network.

Children and adolescents (recommendations 134.1, 135.10, 135.20, 135.21, 135.22, 135.23, 135.27, 135.53, 135.35 and 135.33)

69. Ecuador has made efforts to provide adequate care at every stage of the life course, including the prenatal stage. Children up to the age of 5 years are covered by programmes developed under the National Full Childhood Strategy, as a result of which the mortality rate among children under the age of 5 dropped from 9.50 per cent in 2009 to 8.64 per cent in 2013.

70. There is an extensive legal framework to protect the rights of children and adolescents, which includes the Code on Children and Adolescents, the Organic Code of the Judiciary and the Organic Code of Territorial Organization, Self-Government and Decentralization and provides for the establishment of specialized judicial bodies, such as cantonal rights protection boards and special courts for families, women, children and adolescents, in order to promote and protect their rights.

71. Corporal punishment of children in the home is penalized under the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code of 2014, which criminalizes and sets penalties for physical violence in the domestic environment and corporal punishment of children in the context of armed conflict. The Organic Act on Intercultural Education, meanwhile, sets out rules for preventing and dealing with abuse and violence in schools, establishes safeguards to protect the physical integrity of students and provides for the mandatory reporting of any kind of abuse.

72. The State has committed to eradicating child labour. Following the first national survey on child labour conducted by the National Statistics and Census Institute in 2012, a National Strategy to Eradicate Child Labour was drawn up and implemented by the central Government in coordination with the decentralized autonomous governments, as a result of which the child labour rate was reduced from 12.5 per cent in 2007 to 5.9 per cent in 2015.[18]

73. To guarantee the right to an identity, the authorities have developed a national system for the registration of vital statistics that makes it possible for children born in hospitals to be registered immediately.

74. Between 2010 and 2013, pregnancy rates fell by 10.2 per cent among adolescents aged 10 to 14 years and by 12.9 per cent among adolescents aged 15 to 19 years.

75. In the field of civil and political rights, the 2015 Act amending the Civil Code prohibited and rendered void any marriage involving persons under the age of 18 years. Recognition of citizenship is reflected in measures such as voluntary voting for adolescents from the age of 16, which fosters political knowledge and awareness among young people and enables them to exercise their right to participation.

Older persons (recommendation 135.12)

76. The State recognizes older persons aged 65 years and over as a priority group. A comprehensive health-care model has been implemented, taking into account the specific characteristics and needs of each age group. In 2015, the number of outpatient visits among older persons totalled 3,453,759.[19]

77. In 2016, care was provided to 79,919[20] older persons in residential care homes, day-care centres, alternative facilities or at home, at a cost of US$ 15,949,141.43.[21] Budgetary plans at the local level for 2017 suggest that US$ 16,028,769.13 will be spent on providing care to 73,078 beneficiaries.

78. Universal non-contributory retirement coverage is the main source of social protection for older persons (57 per cent). In 2016, a total of 475,340[22] older persons received non-contributory pensions amounting to US$ 286,856,410.26.[23]

Persons deprived of liberty (recommendations 135.25 and 135.26)

79. More than US$ 300 million has been invested in reforming the national prison system. Improvements in infrastructure have reduced overcrowding to below the regional average. Before 2007, overcrowding had risen to 116.63 per cent; by the end of 2016, the figure had fallen to 22.45 per cent.

80. Primary, secondary and higher education is provided by public and private schools, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. A total of 7,739 persons deprived of their liberty are currently enrolled in the formal education system. By August 2016, 400 persons deprived of their liberty had entered higher education.

81. With regard to employment, 152 persons deprived of their liberty are currently employed by private companies and have bank accounts into which their salary is paid. By 2016, 87 persons deprived of their liberty had been certified as master craftspeople by the National Board for the Protection of Craftspeople. Over the course of 2016, a total of 17,986 persons deprived of their liberty were involved in employment-related activities, which will make it easier for them to re-enter the labour market in the future.

82. As regards access to culture, 20,067 persons deprived of their liberty have been involved in 70 cultural activities offered regularly at social rehabilitation centres. In terms of sport, 10,921 persons deprived of their liberty took part in sports activities in 2016.

83. The Ministry of Public Health took responsibility for access to health care in 2014 and set up 44 medical units in social rehabilitation centres throughout the country. These units carry out surgical procedures of low and moderate complexity and provide outpatient treatment.

84. Between 2015 and 2016, throughout the country, 567,048 persons deprived of their liberty received general medical treatment, 338,496 received dental treatment, 130,488 received mental health treatment and 6,500 were treated for problems relating to drug use. There are now protocols for the provision of care in cases involving persons with a catastrophic illness or infectious disease, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, older persons and children up to the age of 36 months who live with their mothers.

85. Ecuador now has its first training college for prison staff, offering a technical degree in prison security, to ensure that those who serve as prison wardens are fully prepared. To date, 226 members of prison staff have graduated and 700 candidates are expected to enrol during the second round of applications, starting in the second semester of 2017.

E. Gender

Eradication of gender-based violence (recommendation 135.30)

86. The eradication of gender-based violence is a constitutional requirement and a national priority, which is being addressed through the National Plan to Eradicate Gender-based Violence against Women, Children and Adolescents; an inter-agency committee has been set up to oversee the implementation of this plan.

87. Communication campaigns run by various ministries[24] have played a key role in prevention by drawing attention to cultural patterns that perpetuate violence.

88. In 2016, there were 23 comprehensive support centres and 5 shelters, which offered assistance to 21,131 direct users and 102,984 indirect users in 14 provinces. There are plans to sign 23 agreements with support centres and shelters in 2017, which would bring the number of direct beneficiaries to around 13,504 and the number of indirect beneficiaries to around 48,106 over the course of this year.

89. In terms of legislation, under the Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code, femicide and physical, sexual and psychological violence against women and family members have been defined as serious or minor offences and the Offices of Commissioners for Women and the Family have been turned into special decentralized courts that hear cases involving gender-based violence,[25] with cantonal jurisdiction and staff who are specialized in dealing with violence against women and other forms of family violence.

90. The Attorney General's Office has 70 local offices specializing in cases of gender-based violence, located in 21 of the country's 24 provinces. As regards the investigation of femicide, in 2017, the Attorney General's Office adopted the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-related Killing of Women, developed by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

91. Under the National Plan to Eradicate Gender-based Violence against Women, Children and Adolescents, the use of the protocol on emergency support for victims of domestic violence by the Domestic Violence Department of the National Police has been promoted, as has the use of the protocol for handling gender-based and domestic violence emergencies via telephone by the integrated security service ECU-911. The country has also been implementing a plan for the eradication of sexual offences in the educational sphere since 2014.

92. In 2013, a tripartite agreement was signed by the Attorney General's Office, the Council of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Education, establishing protocols for dealing with violence committed or detected in the national education system and establishing the procedure to be followed when sexual violence, bullying, institutional violence or domestic abuse is detected in schools. As of December 2016, 3,097 professionals working in student counselling services had been informed about these issues and the procedures to be followed, and over 11,480 teachers had received similar training.

Reproduction and sustainability of life

93. Ecuador has put in place a gender-sensitive social support system, under which several national initiatives have been launched, including the "Growing with our Children" programme. Under this programme, care is provided for the poorest children under the age of 3 in comprehensive childcare centres and through home and community visits, which are also organized to support persons with disabilities, older persons and persons who need special protection. These services lessen the burden of unpaid domestic work, including care work, which is mainly borne by women.

94. Recognition of unpaid work carried out by women in the first and second poverty quintiles has had a positive impact on family income; such work now represents between 40 and 50 per cent of that income. The level of extreme poverty has fallen to 20.8 per cent as a result. The satellite account, which is used to assess women's contribution to the national economy, shows that unpaid domestic work currently represents 15.41 per cent of GDP.

95. Women make up 95 per cent of the recipients of support from the Human Development Bond cash transfer programme; 97 per cent of the women who have received such transfers have started businesses, 60 per cent of which have been successful, generating income of US$ 26,680.90, which is 2.12 times the total amount transferred under the scheme.

Participation (recommendations 135.14 and 135.15)

96. The three presiding officers in the National Assembly, namely the President and the Vice-Presidents, are women; furthermore, 43.07 per cent of National Assembly members are women and the overall participation of women in the legislature has doubled, rising from 17 per cent in 2002 to 38.7 per cent in 2017.

97. At the local level, women occupied 33.9 per cent of positions in 2011, compared with 38.7 per cent in 2014. Out of the 5,628 elected officials in February 2014, 1,444 were women (25.7 per cent).

98. As a result of affirmative action based on the principle of gender parity, the National Court of Justice has achieved a record level of female participation and is now composed of 12 men and 9 women. Similarly, the Constitutional Court comprises 6 women and 3 men.

99. The National Electoral Council (2011-2017) has three male and two female members, as do the Electoral Court (2012-2018) and the Council of the Judiciary (2013-2019).

100. Women accounted for 2.11 per cent of armed forces personnel in 2013; the figure reached 2.74 per cent in December 2013 and has now risen to 3.11 per cent. In 2016, women were promoted to the rank of general in the National Police for the first time.

Rights of LGBTI persons

101. In 2014, under an agreement between the Office of the President of the Republic and sexual and gender diversity organizations, an inter-agency round table on a comprehensive policy for LGBTI persons was set up, resulting in significant progress towards guaranteeing the rights of LGBTI persons, including an amendment to the Civil Code in 2015 that legalized de facto unions between persons of the same sex.

102. The Organic Act on the Management of Identity and Personal Information of 2015 provides for the inclusion of "gender" instead of "sex" on national identity cards; as a result, during the presidential elections of 19 February 2017, those who had specified their gender on their identity card could exercise their right to vote according to their chosen gender.

103. In the field of health, guidelines on health care for LGBTI persons have been adopted, and public health facilities have introduced various measures based on those guidelines, such as including the sex-gender variable in their administrative records.

104. In the sphere of education, 43 public policy measures relating to gender and to sexual and gender diversity have been introduced in higher education, as part of a campaign entitled "Building Equality in Higher Education".

F. Rights of communities, peoples and nationalities (recommendations 135.15, 135.18, 135.57 and 135.58)

105. The Afro-Ecuadorian Development Agency, the National Council for the Montubio People of Ecuador and the Council for the Advancement of the Nations and Peoples of Ecuador were set up to promote and enhance diversity and different world views and to further the human, endogenous, economic, social and cultural development of the country's peoples and nationalities. Between 2012 and 2016, they served as transitional councils, pending the establishment of the National Council for Equality; they also designed and implemented the National Agenda for the Equality of Nationalities and Peoples for 2013-2017.

106. Within the framework of this Agenda, public policies on equality and non-discrimination and affirmative action measures have been implemented at different levels of government. Social indicators with an intercultural focus have been developed, in coordination with the National Statistics and Census Institute, to enable a statistical assessment of the living conditions of the indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples.

107. Capacity-building in connection with human rights, group rights, and citizen participation and social responsibility in the exercise of those rights has been carried out among communes, communities, peoples, nationalities and grass-roots organizations. Professionals belonging to various peoples and nationalities have been awarded grants to enable them to participate in national and international postgraduate study programmes. Inter-agency agreements have been signed for the legalization, construction and improvement of housing for the Afro-Ecuadorian people in a number of provinces.

108. The International Decade for People of African Descent was launched in Ecuador on 16 February 2016, with the introduction of affirmative measures benefiting 7.2 per cent of the national population, or more than one million citizens.

109. During the period under review, the Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion was adopted, leading to the implementation of 15 national programmes and 56 practical measures relating to legislation, rights, access to communication, international relations, education and citizen participation of Afro-Ecuadorians.

110. Specific ethnic equality requirements have been established for competitive examinations for admission to institutions of higher education and public-sector jobs, with the aim of ensuring, in the case of the latter, that public institutions include on their payroll the same proportion of members of an ethnic group as the proportion represented by that group within the total national population. Successful candidates in merit-based selection processes who were awarded additional points on the basis of self-identified ethnicity include 255 Afro-Ecuadorian women and 256 Afro-Ecuadorian men, 218 indigenous women and 244 indigenous men and 270 Montubio women and 217 Montubio men.

111. The Comprehensive Organic Criminal Code defines offences that violate the rights of ethnic minorities. Articles 176 and 177 establish discrimination and hate crimes as offences that are punishable by 1 to 3 years' imprisonment.

G. Freedom rights

Information and communications rights (recommendations 135.36, 135.38, 135.40, 135.43 and 135.60)

112. The State has guaranteed communications rights through the Organic Act on Communications, adopted in 2013 following a referendum. This Act established a communications system that not only provides for enjoyment of communications rights but also protects freedom of expression and promotes greater citizen participation.

113. The Council on the Regulation and Development of Information and Communications was established to regulate the implementation of public policy in this area, and the Superintendency of Information and Communications, a technical body with oversight, audit, intervention and monitoring authority, was set up.

114. Under the Act, the media are required, inter alia, to generate and reproduce content that is non-discriminatory and inclusive; to foster dignity and professionalism among communications workers; to provide openings and opportunities for national output and music; to promote intercultural communication; and to monitor media content with an eye to the best interests of children and adolescents.

115. The Act also requires that educational, instructive and cultural content should be broadcast at fixed times.

116. The Council on the Regulation and Development of Information and Communications evaluates content that has been identified — through monitoring by the Superintendency of Information and Communications — as discriminatory or sexually explicit. The Council conducts such content evaluations of its own accord or following a public complaint, the aim being to prevent the spread of stereotypes, prejudice or stigma.

117. Up to 2015, a total of 2,187 persons had requested information in connection with the Organic Act on Communications and had received guidance on submitting a complaint or an update on the status of proceedings under way.

118. Under the Act, official public media outlets for both digital and print media were established; there is a Kichwa version of the newspaper *El Ciudadano* and a version aimed at migrants in the city of New York.

119. In order to promote the establishment of community-based media outlets, the Act provides for soft loans to be granted for that purpose and allows tax-free imports of operating equipment for community-based print media outlets and radio and television stations. Training on the technical, administrative and communications-related management of such outlets has also been provided. In 2007, 93.2 per cent of media outlets were private, 6.8 per cent were public, and there were no community-based outlets. There are now 1,124 registered media outlets, of which 92.35 per cent are private, 3.56 per cent are public and 4.09 per cent are community-based.

120. The Council on the Regulation and Development of Information and Communications has developed an intercultural production catalogue with a view to ensuring access to national and intercultural offerings produced by public institutions; it has also developed a platform for the provision of free online training courses on communications and information rights, where participants are able to interact and discuss relevant issues in a virtual classroom.

121. Within this legal framework, social organizations have been given the right to form coordinated, stable groupings. To date, 119 organizations have registered with the Superintendency of Information and Communications, which is the body currently responsible for regulating social organizations that focus on communications rights.

Trafficking in persons (recommendations 135.6 and 135.27)

122. A national plan to combat human trafficking; the smuggling of migrants; sexual exploitation; labour exploitation and other forms of exploitation; prostitution of women, children and adolescents; child pornography; and corruption of minors was adopted in 2006, pursuant to Executive Decree No. 1823. An inter-agency commission, made up of representatives of 16 State institutions, was established to oversee the implementation of the plan through three operational committees focusing on prevention, protection and investigation. A national protocol on protection and comprehensive assistance for victims of trafficking was implemented in 2013, with support from IOM, enabling more than 180 victims to receive assistance during the period under review.

123. An inter-agency committee was established to examine and follow up on each case, making sure that victims received the necessary special emergency protection and assistance and that their rights were upheld. In addition, an automated migration management and monitoring system was implemented to improve border controls, and a training handbook and reference guide on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offences, aimed at police officers and public prosecutors, was developed in collaboration with IOM.

124. Bilateral agreements containing provisions on protection have been implemented in cooperation with Peru and Colombia, resulting in faster repatriation and improvements in

the work of the competent institutions. Within this framework, binational operations have been conducted to dismantle networks involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Progressive use of force and measures against corruption (recommendations 135.24, 135.28 and 135.29)

125. All public institutions are required to ensure respect for human rights. Accordingly, rules governing the use of force by police officers and prison security staff have been established, including regulations on legal, appropriate and proportional use of force by the National Police and a handbook on operations for the maintenance of law and order, both issued in 2014.

126. The regulations governing the social rehabilitation system provide that police officers and prison security staff may use force and coercive measures only for the length of time and to the extent necessary, to ensure security and internal order and to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, staff and visitors, in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity, appropriateness and proportional and progressive use. In the event of a suspected abuse of authority, the case must be referred to the Attorney General's Office.

127. Members of the National Police receive regular training on human rights, as the topic has been included in the education, training and specialization curricula of the in-service training programme. Training was provided to 31,857 police officers (72 per cent of the force) in 2014, 42,500 (96 per cent) in 2015 and 33,762 (76 per cent) in 2016.

128. Under the Organic Act on the National Police, the National Police Inspectorate is responsible for the administrative investigation of complaints or alleged irregularities in police conduct. In order to strengthen the disciplinary investigation process, a special unit has been set up to investigate allegations of human rights violations and gender-based violence.

129. As regards measures to tackle corruption in the judiciary, in 2014, the plenary Council of the Judiciary approved a comprehensive set of rules regarding process-driven organizational management, which led to the establishment of the National Directorate for Management Transparency and the implementation, in 2015, of a protocol for processing and investigating allegations of corruption in the judiciary. A free hotline for complaints in that regard (1800-TRANSPARENCIA) and an electronic complaints procedure have been set up.

II. Rights to protection

130. In 2013, the judiciary implemented a strategic plan for the ongoing development of the justice system as a public service, with the following results:

- An increase in the number of judges per 100,000 population from 8.44 in 2012 to an average of 12.54 in 2016, thus exceeding the regional average.
- The establishment of rules on merit-based selection processes for positions in the judiciary, providing for public oversight and right of challenge, to ensure proper regulation of the application, selection and appointment procedure, which includes initial training at the Judicial Training College.
- Implementation of the Judicial Services Plan, through which the range of judicial services has been expanded and reorganized.
- A reduction in the proportion of postponed criminal hearings: in 2012, 29.2 per cent of scheduled hearings (3 out of every 10) did not take place; by 2016, the figure had fallen to 3.9 per cent.
- A drop in the number of cases in which the pretrial detention period expired without the case having been heard: in 2008, the pretrial detention period expired in 17.89 per cent of cases, on average (2,061 cases); the figure dropped to 0.08 per cent (11 cases) in 2016.

- The inclusion of mediation as a judicial service: before 2012, there were 5 mediation offices in Ecuador; by 2016 the number had grown to 127. These offices provide the public with an alternative means of settling disputes, which increases access to justice, cuts costs, accelerates proceedings and promotes a culture of peace. In 2016, there were 134 mediators throughout the country, distributed across 102 cantons in 24 provinces.
- The development of magistrates' courts: in 2016, there were 170 justices of the peace, elected by their local communities to settle disputes between individuals and neighbours in the community and to handle minor offences in equity, through mechanisms that promote a culture of peace, such as reconciliation, dialogue and amicable settlement, thus giving people back the power to settle their own disputes.
- A reduction in backlogs, cases pending and the average time taken to hand down decisions in disciplinary proceedings, reflected by a resolution rate of 124 per cent.
- The establishment of a unified maintenance system that enables the automatic payment of maintenance, subject to monitoring, and protects the best interests of children and adolescents.
- Implementation of the online Court Auction System.
- The development of oral proceedings, with 1,248 judges assigned exclusively to non-criminal trials, in 938 court-rooms equipped with audio and video systems.

131. The Council of the Judiciary provides a training course on human rights through the online platform of the Judicial Training College, with a total of 217 course hours covering the rights of priority groups, violence against women and domestic violence, crimes against humanity, violations of the right to equality and offences against the inviolability of life. In 2016, a total of 1,195 judges, 705 public prosecutors and 808 public defenders received this training.

The Truth Commission (recommendation 135.32)

132. In 2013, the National Assembly passed legislation providing for reparations to victims and prosecution of serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity that occurred in Ecuador between 4 October 1983 and 31 December 2008. On 13 November 2014, by way of Decision No. 198-DPE-CGAJ-2014, the Ombudsman's Office issued guidelines regulating the implementation of the administrative reparations programme for victims of human rights violations documented by the Truth Commission. On 3 February 2015, by way of Ministerial Agreement No. 865, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religious Affairs issued regulations on the procedure for reparation agreements, the amounts to be paid in compensation and enforcement measures.

133. These measures enabled the Ombudsman's Office to set up a Directorate for Reparations to Victims of Serious Human Rights Violations, which assisted a total of 328 persons — 255 direct victims and 73 indirect victims — in 2016. Between 2015 and 2016, the Directorate dealt with 108 active and inactive case files on criminal records related to the 2010 findings of the Truth Commission; 862 persons received psychotherapy; 1,121 persons were given legal advice; 566 persons received medical care; 149 persons received jobseeker assistance through the Ministry of Labour; and 75 persons were assessed as priority candidates for housing vouchers, of whom 27 were deemed eligible. In addition, 40 undergraduate grants were provided by the Eloy Alfaro scholarship programme for children of victims and postgraduate grants were provided by the Secretariat of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. Some symbolic measures were also taken, such as the creation of memorial sites.

134. As regards material reparation, following 127 direct dialogues with victims or beneficiaries to determine the amounts to be paid in compensation, 26 compensation agreements were reached between 2015 and 2016, relating to 13 cases documented in the report of the Truth Commission.

I. Participation rights (recommendations 135.39, 135.41 and 135.42)

135. Citizen participation is a political right enshrined in the Constitution. A transparency and social control branch of government has been established, made up of several entities, including the Council for Citizen Participation and Social Control, which plays a steering role.

136. The Organic Act on Citizen Participation entered into force in 2011. Its purpose is to facilitate, promote and guarantee citizens' exercise of their right to play a central role in decision-making on matters that concern them; to safeguard the right to autonomous collective organization and forms of governance based on citizen participation; to establish bodies, mechanisms, instruments and procedures for public consultations between the various levels of government and society on public policies and the provision of public services; to strengthen citizen power and its forms of expression; and to lay the foundations for participatory democracy and accountability and social control initiatives.

137. All levels of government have now been incorporated into the Decentralized National System for Participatory Planning, which organizes and coordinates development planning through processes, entities and tools that enable interaction between various social and institutional actors.

138. The principles of consultation and participation apply not only to development projects but also to the drafting of legislation that might affect indigenous peoples and nationalities, who have the right to be consulted on such legislative proposals. Consultations of this kind were conducted prior to the adoption of the Organic Act on Culture, the Organic Act on Water Resources and Water Use and Management, the Organic Act on Rural Lands and Ancestral Territories, the Organic Code on the Social Economy of Knowledge, Creativity and Innovation, the Organic Code on the Environment and the Act on Agricultural Biodiversity, Seeds and Agroecological Development.

139. During the period under review, a number of participatory bodies and processes were established, including public oversight bodies, citizens' observatories, users' committees, sectoral citizens' councils, equality councils, participatory assemblies and political parties and movements.

V. Status of implementation of voluntary commitments

(a) In order to implement one of the voluntary commitments that it had made before the Human Rights Council, Ecuador worked with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop the Human Rights Information System(SIDEDERECHOS), which was launched in 2014. This platform comprises four tools: one for searching national and international human rights standards, a library of reports, a section for the production of State reports and a section on follow-up to treaty body recommendations and related international obligations. Not only does the system enable citizens to obtain information on their rights and the standards establishing the enforceability of those rights, but it also enables the State to monitor the implementation of public policies arising from its international human rights obligations.

(b) In 2013, a document on the universal periodic review of 2012, containing the national report, the summary of stakeholders' submissions and the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, was published in electronic and print format. The electronic version was made available on the website of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Religious Affairs and 1,000 copies of the print version were disseminated among civil society and the public sector.

(c) During the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), which was held in Quito in October 2016, Ecuador co-hosted a side event entitled "Together for You — Building Accessible Housing for Persons with Disabilities Affected by the Earthquake", in coordination with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, Mr. Lenin Moreno, the National Federation of Persons with Physical Disabilities and the National Council for Persons with Disabilities. A round table for organizations of persons with disabilities was also held during the Conference.

(d) The national report for the universal periodic review was prepared using the SIDERECHOS platform, which made it possible to evaluate the implementation of each recommendation made in 2012 and to coordinate inter-agency work on those recommendations. This served as a pilot experience for the establishment of a mechanism for follow-up to recommendations made with regard to Ecuador by all international and regional bodies for the protection of human rights.

(e) The domestic procedure for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure is under way.

VI. Achievements, best practices, challenges and constraints

140. Ecuador is committed to the protection of human rights and recently proposed that the international community should draw up an instrument on transnational corporations and human rights. On 26 June 2014, resolution A/HRC/RES/26/9 was adopted by the Human Rights Council, following a joint proposal by the Governments of South Africa and Ecuador; pursuant to the resolution an intergovernmental working group was established to draft a legally binding instrument on the issue, which will enable States to fulfil their obligation to protect against human rights abuses within their territory and/or jurisdiction by third parties, including transnational corporations, and to strengthen accountability, improve victims' access to redress and prevent such violations in future.

Notes

[1] Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, Candidatura del Ecuador al Consejo de Derechos Humanos 2016-2018. Promesas y compromisos voluntarios. U.N. Doc. A/70/409 (6 de octubre de 2015).
[2] Registro Oficial N° 428 de la República del Ecuador, 18 de septiembre de 2009.
[3] Índice de Pobreza Multidimensional (IPM) es un índice que identifica el conjunto de privaciones de derechos a nivel de los hogares en 4 dimensiones y refleja la proporción de personas pobres multidimensionales y el porcentaje promedio de privaciones que cada persona sufre de manera simultánea.
[4] Medición de la Pobreza Multidimensional en Ecuador. Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC).
[5] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, desempleo y Subempleo Urbano y Rural. Encueta de Condiciones de vida.
[6] SENPLADES, 10 RC La Década Ganada. Quito, Ecuador, enero 2017.
[7] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC). Cobertura de Canasta Básica.
[8] SENPLADES, Plan Nacional de Desarrollo/Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir 2013-2017. Versión resumida. Quito, Ecuador, 2014.
[9] Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo (ENEMDU) 2016.
[10] Registro Oficial N° 392 de la República del Ecuador, Quito, 9 de diciembre de 2014.
[11] Ministry of Public Health. Registro diario de atenciones ambulatoria. 2015. Disponible en: https://public.tableau.com/profile/andres.hualca8739#!/vizhome/Produccindeatenciones/consultasambulatoriasMSP2015V3COMPLETO/Men.
[12] Nuevo modelo de educación primaria y secundaria que impulsa el Estado ecuatoriano, mediante el acceso de educación de calidad a NNA de escasos recursos, mediante una infraestructura de calidad ubicada en zonas históricamente olvidadas o de difícil acceso.
[13] http://www.yachay.gob.ec/.
[14] http://www.unae.edu.ec/.
[15] www.uartes.edu.ec/.
[16] www.uartes.edu.ec/.
[17] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo Urbano y Rural.
[18] Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos (INEC), Encuesta Nacional de Empleo, Desempleo y Subempleo Urbano y Rural.
[19] Ministerio de Salud Pública. Registro diario de atenciones ambulatoria. 2015. Disponible en: https://public.tableau.com/profile/andres.hualca8739#!/vizhome/Produccindeatenciones/consultasambulatoriasMSP2015V3COMPLETO/Men.
[20] Reporte del Sistema Integrado de Información del MIES SIIMIES. Fuente Oficial.
[21] Ministerio de Finanzas, Reporte e-SIGEF, del presupuesto devengado al 31 de diciembre del 2016.
[22] Ministerio de Inclusión Económica y Social (MIES). Subsecretaría de Aseguramiento no

Contributivo. Dirección de Aseguramiento no Contributivo y Contingencias.

[23] Idem.

[24] "Reacciona Ecuador, el Machismo es Violencia" (Ministerio TAL, 2010), "Ecuador actúa ya. Violencia de género, ni más" (Ministerio TAL, 2013), e "Infórmate, Habla, Actúa" (Ministerio TAL, 2014).

[25] Consejo de la Judicatura. (2013). Resolución N° 077-2013, de 15 de enero de 2013.